[Translation]

This is the statement of the Finance Secretary issued a few days back.. Through you, I want the reaction of the Government to this statement. Does the Government propose to take any steps in this direction?

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister had been the Minister of the Department of Agriculture and is considered an intelligent Member. Therefore, he is justified in seeking a proper reply. His question is divided in two parts. One of them relates to the yield of cotton. In regard to yield, we have admitted that there has been a gradual increase in the yield from 1950-51 to 1995-96. The yield per hectare has risen from 95 Kgs. in 1949-50 to 246-257 kgs. in 1995-96. This is so despite the fact that irrigated area under cotton cultivation is very small. Average yield per hectare was 95 Kgs. When irrigated area was only 8.2 per cent. At present irrigation has been extended to about 34 per cent area which has led to increase in the yield. Another question which he raised was about the certified seed. About this too, the Government is cautious. To this end, the Government is running an Intensive Cotton Development Scheme through which the farmers would get certified seed, fertilizer and irrigation facility. Provision has been made to supply insecticides to save the crops from diseases and pests. That is how the Government is always cautious about the yield.

So far as the price is concerned, minimum support price is fixed by the Agricultural Prices Commission. For instance, in Punjab, the minimum support price has been fixed at Rs.1165 per quintal this year. In October, the price rules at about Rs. 1775 and at the end of the reasons, the price was Rs. 2045 per quintal. Similarly, in the beginning of November, the price was Rs.1760 but now it is Rs.2000. In Andhra Pradesh, the price was Rs.1981 in October which rose to Rs.2038 by the end of the month. In November, the price was Rs.1831 per quintal and by the end of the month, the price rose to 2152 per quintal. Similarly, the price in Gujarat was Rs.2125 per quintal...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can lay it on the Table of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : What is the reaction of the Government on the observation made by the Finance Secretary, Shri Montek Singh?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : In response to the reply that has been given, I would like to say that the farmers are not getting more than Rs.1500 per quintal.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have given the floor to Shri Lakshman Singh. Nothing else will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : It is essential to push up production of cotton. Oilseeds and pulses crops are also grown up alongwith cotton in the Kharif season. Therefore, it has also to be ensured that area under cotton during the Kharif seasons does not shrink and the equation between the production and price is maintained. Soyabean crop is also raised in the Kharif season. It is also not proper to increase the area under cotton and to decrease the area under Soyabean. I would like to know as to what steps the Government propose to take to maintain the balance between different Kharif crops?

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Cotton growers in the cotton growing States are getting reasonable price for their produce. Accordingly, the production has gone up and so has the area under cotton cultivation. It is ensured that area under cotton cultivation does not go down in relation to the demand for cotton.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have an important point to make...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is Question Hour. We cannot have a full debate on this issue now. That requires a separate notice.

[English]

Dumping of Graphite Electrodes

*162. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain countries have been dumping graphite electrodes in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating its environmental effect;

(c) whether any investigation has been made in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). As per information from the Ministry of Commerce, graphite electrodes are being

brought into India from other countries at a price less than the Normal Value. The imports of graphite electrodes is for industrial use where it gets consumed. Hence, the environment is not affected.

(c) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(c) to (e). According to the Ministry of Commerce, anti-dumping investigations are carried out in India under Sections 9A, 9B and 9C of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and the Rules made thereunder namely, Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Anti-dumping Duty on Dumped Articles and for Determination of Injury) Rules, 1995. The Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce has been appointed as the "Designated Authority" under this Act. Petitions received by the Designated Authority are decided after following the procedure prescribed under the Act and the Rules made thereunder. Investigations are quasi-judicial in nature and appellable in the Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal. The merits of the investigations can be scrutinised only under the due process of law.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Should not I put a question since I belong to the Treasury Benches? Is it your exclusive right...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We are on the next question, now.

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : The Government has admitted that graphite electrodes are being brought into India at low prices. If goods at low prices are imported into the country and sold here, it will affect the indigenous industries. We have entered into a number of international agreements, such as, GATT and Dunkel, etc. which have been discussed here in the House also. I would like to know as to what procedure has been adopted by the Government to check such dumping? Has this process been adopted in the present case too? If so, the number of people against whom action has been taken?

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : In the context, in which this question has been asked, it basically relates to the Ministry of Commerce. The hon. Members want to know whether electrodes are being brought into India from abroad and are sold on low prices? This issue relates to foreign trade. We have collected the information about it from the Ministry of Commerce. Action against those who indulge in bringing such good into the country for sale and dumping is taken by the Ministry of Commerce itself. In this connection, our laws have been amended w.e.f. 1.1.95 in accordance with the anti-dumping provisions of the W.T.O. Work relating to investigations is carried out under the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Rules, 1995. The Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce has been appointed as the "Designated Authority" for such investigations. On receipts of petitions regarding dumping, it is his responsibility to find out the extent to which dumping is being done. Based on the findings by the Authority, the Government decide whether to levy the anti-dumping duty or not and if duty is to belevied, what should be the extent of such duty. This is done in a semi-judicial process and appeal against its decisions can be filed in the Customs Appellate Tribunal.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Sir, my second supplementary is as to whether the Government have the details about the countries from which graphite electrodes are being imported?

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : Most of the quantities of graphite are imported from U.S.A., Spain, Japan, China, Belgium and Australia. The quantities imported during 1995-96 from different countries are as follows. China-486.1 tonnes, U.S.A.-391.2 tonnes, Japan-379 tonnes, Belgium-192.1 tonnes, & Spain-156.6 tonnes, Australia-112.4 tonnes.

Welfare Schemes for Tribals

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*163. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the schemes being run by the Government in the tribal areas of the country;

(b) the amount of financial assistance given by the Centre to various States for the welfare of tribals during the last two years, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the criteria adopted by the Government for providing the Central assistance?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House as Annexure-I.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House as Annexure-IIA to II-F.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House as Annexure-III.

ANNEXURE-I

S.No.	Name of the Scheme
1	2
1.	Special Central Assistance for Tribal Sub-Plan.
2.	Grants under Proviso (i) to Article 275(1) of the Constitution